The actual living standard of the population, "A"-lq-13 lower than 511
in any peace-time year before world war II, is not so low as to cause general unrest. The Hungarian economy, however, rests on a precarious foundation and a poor crop year can ~~cause~~ BRING the living standard down considerably below normal. This was the case in 1953 when the Berlin rioting and the unrest resulting from a widespread drop in agricultural and industrial production forced the Communists to introduce the "New Course" and to shift the economic stress from heavy industry to consumer goods.

Delinquency, begging and vagabondage are practically non- 735
existent in Hungary, or at least they are not noticeable because the 738
police are carefully rounding up those who seem to have nothing to do and putting them to work on various public projects. No reliable figures on criminality are available. Judging from the court columns 687
appearing in the daily newspapers, however, one gets the impression that "crimes against socialist property" are quite frequent--the pilfering of materials or, more seldom, tools, from the workshops, and fraud in the administration of socialized industrial or agricultural concerns. Articles thundering against the workers' tardiness or fail- [461]
ure to deliver grain are another commonplace in the newspapers.

The poverty of the country prevents the development of 000